

**REMARKS**

By way of the foregoing amendments, the claims 1-18 have been amended to delete multiple dependencies, and to otherwise conform with conventional U.S. format. New claims 19 -20 have been added so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims has been preserved. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

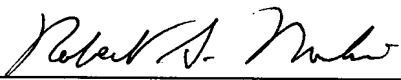
Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: September 25, 2006

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert G. Mukai  
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404  
703 836 6620